## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /068 W

-----056441 190828Z /12

R 172115Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8690 INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, PGOV, BR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GEISEL'S PROPOSAL TO RAISE AGE OF DIPLOMATIC RETIREMENT PROVOKES FOREIGN MINISTRY DEBATE

- 1. IN AN EFFORT TO CURB GROWING PUBLIC DISSENSION WITHIN FOREIGN MINISTRY CAUSED BY AN AUGUST 9 PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT GEISEL TO CONGRESS TO RAISE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR BRAZIL'S SENIOR CAREER DIPLOMATS FROM 65 TO 70 YEARS, MINISTRY'S SECRETARY GENERAL DARIO CASTRO ALVES ODDERED ON AUGUST 15 THAT CRITICISM OF THE PROPOSAL WITHIN FOREIGN MINISTRY CEASE IMMEDIATELY. ACTING ON BEHALF OF ALLEGEDLY IRATE FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, CASTRO ALVES REPORTEDLY TOLD THE FIFTEEN MINISTRY DEPARTMENT CHIEFS TO PASS THE WORD TO THEIR SUB-ORDINATES THAT SUCH CRITICISM WOULD BE CONSIDERED "NOT AGAINST THE MINISTRY, BUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF."
- 2. GEISEL'S PROPOSAL WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTING THE NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS OF JUNIOR AND MIDDLE-GRADE DIPLOMATS BECAUSE OF WHAT JORNAL DO BRASIL (AUGUST 17) TERMED "SCLEROSIS OF THE LEADERSHIP."

  AMONG THE POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROPOSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE SILVEIRA AND GOB AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON PINHEIRO, BOTH OF WHOM ARE APPROACHING AGE 65.

CASTRO ALVES' EFFORT TO MUZZLE BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS WHICH IS BECOMING KNOWN AS "PROJECT SILVEIRA" HAS REPORTEDLY EXACERBATED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DEBATE, WITH DISGRUNTLED DIPLOMATS ARE ALLEGEDLY CALLING THE ACTION "UNSOLICITED, DICTATORIAL, AND DISRESPECTFUL,"

ESPECIALLY WHILE THE COUNTRY IS UNDERGOING A PROCESS OF REDEMOCRATIZATION. INSTITUTO RIO BRANCO (SCHOOL FOR BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS) DIRECTOR, MINISTER BATH, COMMENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT CONTINUING EXPANSION OF BRAZIL'S FOREIGN SERVICE SHOULD NEGATE ANY TENDENCY FOR THIS CHANGE TO IMPEDE PROMOTIONS. SAYRE

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## Message Attributes

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TAGS: APER, PGOV, BR

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